REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the Office Action dated December 30, 2005 in which the Examiner objected to claims 3, 8, 12 and 15, rejected claims 1, 3-6 and 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and rejected claims 4, 9, and 11-16 under 35 U.S.C. §103.

As indicated above, minor informalities in the claims have been corrected. Therefore, applicants respectfully request the Examiner approves the correction and withdraws the objection to claims 3, 8, 12 and 15.

As indicated above, claims 1 and 6 have been amended in order to make explicit what is implicit in the claims. The amendment is unrelated to a statutory requirement for patentability.

Claim 1 claims a head arm assembly and claim 6 claims a disk drive assembly including at least one information recording disk and at least one head arm assembly. The head arm assembly comprises a head slider, high-stiffness arm member, a flexure, and actuator and a resilient plate spring. The head slider has at least one head element. The high-stiffness arm member generates no load. The flexure has one end section fixed to one end section of the arm member. The flexure is fixed to the head slider and has a resilience for determining flying attitude of the head slider. A top end of the flexure is positioned back from a top end of the arm member. The actuator, mounted to the other end section of the arm member, is for rotationally moving the arm member in a direction substantially parallel with a recording medium surface around a horizontal rotation axis of the arm member. The resilient plate spring is for generating a load. The plate spring has one end section fixed to the arm member and the other end section provided with a load point that is

not fixed to but abutted to the flexure for energizing the head slider in a direction to the recording medium surface. A top end of the plate spring is positioned back from the top end of the flexure.

Through the structure of the claimed invention having a flexure with a top end positioned back from a top end of an arm member and having a spring plate with a top end positioned back from the top end of the flexure, as claimed in claims 1 and 6, the claimed invention provides a head arm assembly and disk drive apparatus with improved wind resistance, improved impact resistance in a Z-direction and simplified manufacturing process. The prior art does not show, teach or suggest the invention as claimed in claims 1 and 6.

Claims 1, 3-6 and 8-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by *Kuwajima et al* (U.S. Patent No. 6,614,625).

Kuwajima et al appears to disclose a head actuator arm 111 which includes an arm 1 and a flexure member supporting arm 2 for supporting a flexure member 9 (FIG. 2). The flexure member 9 holds a slider 8 (FIG. 2). The slider 8 holds a magnetic head (not shown) for scanning a magnetic disk 5 to record or reproduce information. (Col. 6, lines 7-11). FIG. 2 is an exploded isometric view of the flexure member supporting arm 2 and components attached thereto. The flexure member supporting arm 2 is coupled with the arm 1 via a base plate 10. The flexure member 9 is attached to a tip of a bottom surface of the flexure member supporting arm 2, and the slider 8 having a magnetic head (not shown) mounted thereon is secured to the flexure member 9 by adhesion or the like. (Col. 6, lines 25-32). Returning to FIG. 2, a load beam 11 is attached to a tip of an upper surface of the flexure member supporting arm 2. The load beam 11 is an elastic body for applying a load so as to

prone the slider 8 toward the magnetic disk 5 (FIG. 1). The load beam 11 has a cantilever structure, by which the load beam 11 is secured to the flexure member supporting arm 2 at attaching locations 11C. A protrusion 19 is provided on the load beam 11 for applying a load to the slider 8. The protrusion 19 applies the load to a prescribed point of the slider 8 via the slider attaching section 9A. (Col. 6, line 59 through col. 7, line 2)

Thus, Figure 2 of *Kuwajima et al* clearly discloses that both the top ends of the load beam 11 and flexure 9 extend beyond the end of the support arm 2. However, as claimed in claims 1 and 6, the top end of the flexure is positioned back from a top end of the arm member while the top end of the spring plate is positioned back from the top end of the flexure. *Kuwajima et al* teaches away from the claimed invention since both the load beam 11 and flexure 9 extend beyond the end of the support arm 2.

Since nothing in *Kuwajima et al* shows, teaches or suggests the top end of the flexure is positioned back from a top end of the arm member and the top end of the plate spring is positioned back from the top end of the flexure as claimed in claims 1 and 6, applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraws the rejection to claims 1 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

Claims 3-5 and 8-10 depend from claims 1 and 6 and recite additional features. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3-5 and 8-10 would not have been anticipated by *Kuwajima et al* within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §102(e) at least for the reasons as set forth above. Therefore, applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraws the rejection to claims 3-5 and 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

Claims 4 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over *Kuwajima et al* in view of *Hudson et al* (U.S. Patent No. 6,229,667). Claims 11-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over *Kuwajima et al* in view of *Goss* (U.S. Patent No. 5,786,961).

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103. The claims have been reviewed in light of the Office Action, and for reasons which will be set forth below, applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraws the rejection to the claims and allows the claims to issue.

As discussed above, since nothing in *Kuwajima et al* shows, teaches or suggests the primary features as claimed in claims 1 and 6, applicants respectfully submit that the combination of the primary reference of *Kuwajima et al* with the secondary references to *Hudson et al* or *Goss* would not overcome the deficiencies of the primary reference. Therefore, applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraws the rejection to claims 4, 9 and 11-16 under 35 U.S.C. §103.

Thus it now appears that the application is in condition for reconsideration and allowance. Reconsideration and allowance at an early date are respectfully requested.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact, by telephone, the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed within the currently set shortened statutory period, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time.

The fees for such extension of time may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

In the event that any additional fees are due with this paper, please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL PC

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